

NWS Grand Junction, Colorado

Meteorological Winter 2020-2021

Climate Summary for Eastern Utah and Western Colorado

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March 1st marked the beginning of Meteorological Spring and the conclusion of Meteorological Winter, which was observed from December 1st to February 28th. The 2020-21 winter season was generally drier than normal across eastern Utah and western Colorado as 10 out of 10 of our automated stations at airports across the area ended the season with below normal precipitation.

As a result of the continued below normal precipitation, the extreme to exceptional drought persisted and expanded in coverage across the central zones by the end of the season. Thanks to a cooler than normal February, mean temperatures for the season were generally cooler than normal by 0 to 2 degrees. There were some exceptions with the Aspen, Craig, and Rifle, Colorado airports ending the season with mean temperatures up to 1.4 degrees above normal for winter.



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Please note that all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 different airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado. Some of our cooperative observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than what was mentioned in this summary.

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Meteorological Winter 2020-2021 Temperatures

Location	Average Temp (°F) (Versus Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	22.0 (+1.4)	49 on 1/28	-7 on 12/13
Cortez, CO	27.6 (-1.8)	57 on 2/3	-5 on 1/27
Craig, CO	18.3 (+0.4)	54 on 12/9	-22 on 12/30
Durango, CO	24.1 (-2.0)	57 on 12/7	-14 on 1/27
Grand Junction, CO	29.9 (-0.1)	58 on 2/8	1 on 12/30
Meeker, CO	19.7 (-2.3)	53 on 12/9	-15 on 12/30, 1/11
Montrose, CO	28.4 (Normal)	57 on 2/3	5 on 12/13, 20 and 1/27
Rifle, CO	26.9 (+0.5)	52 on 12/5, 7 and 2/3	-5 on 12/30
Canyonlands Airport, UT	27.8 (-1.6)	62 on 2/8	-7 on 12/30
Vernal, UT	20.1 (-2.0)	48 on 2/8	-6 on 1/4



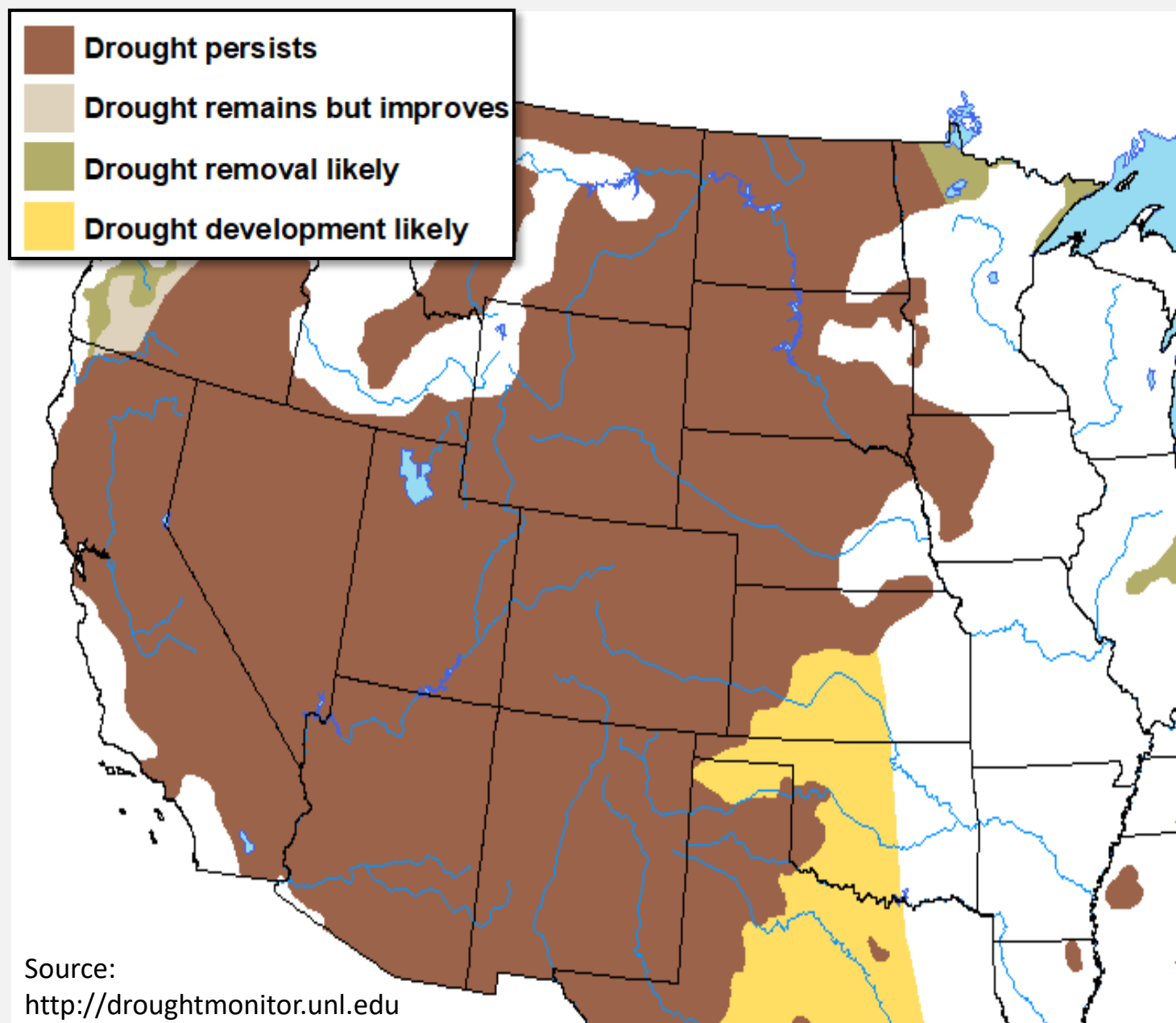
Meteorological Winter 2020-2021 Precipitation

Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	2.17	-1.21
Cortez, CO	2.54	-0.22
Craig, CO	2.08	-0.62
Durango, CO	2.51	-0.94
Grand Junction, CO	1.00	-0.71
Meeker, CO	2.74	-0.26
Montrose, CO	1.58	-0.32
Rifle, CO	0.87	-1.54
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.69	-1.07
Vernal, UT	1.11	-0.55



Seasonal (MAM) Drought Outlook

The drought is expected to persist across eastern Utah and western Colorado through Meteorological Spring, or the months of March, April and May.



Meteorological Spring (MAM) Outlook

For Meteorological Spring, or the months of March, April and May, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring above normal temperatures for eastern Utah and western Colorado as well as below normal precipitation.

